

Draft Q&A's for Toshio Meronek ([ [HYPERLINK "tel:949-292-8075" \t "\\_blank" \]](tel:949-292-8075)), journalist with Al Jazeera America, working on a story on new housing developments in Hunters Point and on Treasure Island in San Francisco. Due 5/8.

1. What types of environmental complaints have residents filed with concern to these sites?

For Hunters Point, USEPA has invited community input regarding priorities for technical assistance services through a public meeting, interviews, and mail and email to 2,500 residents and stakeholders. Community members identified these priority areas for technical assistance: transportation of excavated radioactive waste, air quality during development construction, resiliency of landfill cleanup to climate change and earthquakes, and exposure of future residents after base redevelopment. USEPA is working with other agencies to provide requested technical assistance on these topics through public meetings, fact sheets, and other outreach. USEPA also attends all the Navy and City public meetings regarding the Shipyard cleanup and redevelopment and reaches out proactively to interested community organizations. These are all excellent opportunities for productive dialogue to understand and address community concerns.

2. What are the possible health concerns at these sites?

At Hunters Point, comprehensive risks assessments have studied potential health effects through breathing, skin contact, drinking, and other pathways for exposure to contaminants of concern. Cleanup plans require many different methods to protect the public from all these pathways. For example, they protect the public from breathing and skin contact through cleanup methods such as digging out contaminated soil, storm drains, and other structures and moving them offsite and through encapsulating them through durable covers, such as asphalt or a two-foot thick soil layer. They also protect the public from contaminated water through banning use of groundwater for drinking or bathing and through treatments such as injecting iron or lactate to promote chemical breakdown of contaminants.

3. Does the EPA have a sense for when the last parcel located at these sites will be deleted from the EPA's Superfund registry?

USEPA's goal is to delist Superfund sites or portions of sites from the National Priority List (NPL) when cleanup is complete. At Hunters Point, the Navy has made a great deal of progress on cleanup. Ongoing monitoring and five-year reviews will continue to ensure protectiveness of cleanup at the site. The year 2021 is the best estimate for complete implementation of cleanup technologies on the last portion of the base, which is the sediment in water surrounding the base. At that time, depending on results of that implementation, USEPA can determine the potential for delisting the site from the NPL.

4. Is it typical for residential housing to be erected on recent Superfund sites?

As part of cleanup plans, USEPA works with local community redevelopment plans to ensure that cleanup goals are compatible with the intended future use. Cleanup for residential use is the highest standard. If cleanup achieves a residential standard, then a site is considered suitable for residential or other use.

5. Does the EPA have a statement regarding the [ [HYPERLINK "http://investigations.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2012/08/28/13531823-navy-sought-to-stifle-concerns-of-radiation-on-sf-bay-island-emails-show"](http://investigations.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/08/28/13531823-navy-sought-to-stifle-concerns-of-radiation-on-sf-bay-island-emails-show) ]? Eg. should the public be concerned over the Navy's ability to oversee cleanup?

At Hunters Point, US EPA trusts its rigorous oversight and review process that has many layers of safeguards. The Navy's own internal routine quality control system functions as it is designed to do. When the Navy has found any concerns, it has reported them and corrected them. In addition, the Navy establishes new procedures when internal process needed improvement. This shows the system is working.